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# SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MONGBE (Benin)

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AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (A/48/3, A/48/159-E/1993/59, A/48/172, A/48/182, A/48/183-E/1993/74 and Add.1, A/48/188-E/1993/78, A/48/276, A/48/338, A/48/353-S/26372, A/48/498)

1. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development), introducing the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/48/3), said that the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council had attracted high-level participation from some 35 Member States, reflecting the increasing interest of Member States in using the Council as a forum for policy dialogue on key issues of concern to the international community.

2. During the discussions of the high-level segment, which was devoted to the topic "World Summit for Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development", a wide-ranging review took place of the issues of poverty, employment and social integration and questions were raised about the traditional approaches and solutions to the problem of development. As one speaker had pointed out, after 50 years of experience, it was still not certain that the right answers had been found.

3. A significant development was the unanimous and forthright political support shown for the Summit, including that of some major countries which had earlier been reluctant to accept the idea.

4. Two distinct strands of thinking had emerged from the debate: one emphasizing policies for social development and the other stressing a more fundamental review of institutions that would facilitate greater social cohesion in a new era of uncertainty.

5. The complementary role of the State and the functioning of markets to put people first was also highlighted. In addition to acting to protect the welfare of vulnerable groups, which was an essential function, the State should create the conditions for addressing the problems of poverty, unemployment, social integration and sustainable development. At the same time, there was general acceptance of the essential function of the market and of private investment in the allocation of resources and the creation of wealth. Ways could be found of addressing the interaction between the State's social functions, market responses to social demands and the imperatives of sustainable development. There was general agreement that pragmatic solutions without preconceived ideological notions were what was needed. It was also clear that, given the broad nature of social development, it was necessary to examine its economic underpinnings and political dimensions, including the extent to which those two aspects could be incorporated in the analysis of the Summit's three themes.

6. The coordination segment was devoted to the themes of humanitarian assistance and the eradication of malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera. The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's reports, which had been prepared using contributions from the organizations of the system. The Council's conclusions were largely based on the recommendations in those reports. In the case of humanitarian assistance, stress was laid on the need to strengthen the coordinating role of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

(Mr. Desai)

7. The formal and informal discussions on operational activities had demonstrated the advantage of the Council as a forum for elaborating and clarifying concepts that were often clouded. General Assembly resolutions 44/211, of 22 December 1989, and 47/199, of 22 December 1992, resolution 1993/7 of the Economic and Social Council, together with the reforms currently being negotiated, offered a rich body of legislation to ensure that United Nations funds and agencies could meet host country needs for technical cooperation in an integrated, non-duplicative and mutually reinforcing manner.

8. The two key concepts on which those resolutions were based were the need for increased, stable and assured financing and the need to tailor a coherent response to pressing national priorities. The programme approach, national execution and the Country Strategy Note were part of a cohesive whole and had one important commonality: they defined the demand-driven approach to multilateral development cooperation.

9. The recipient countries must define for themselves how to maximize the multiplier effects, as well as the areas where United Nations technical cooperation was best utilized; the United Nations should provide the bridging arrangement used in translating inter-connected policy frameworks on matters such as the environment, poverty alleviation and human development into action at the country level.

10. With its adoption of resolutions 1988/77 and 1989/114, the Council had started the process of revitalization. The Assembly itself had launched a far-reaching restructuring of the Council in its resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991. It was evident that Member States were still not fully satisfied with the way the Council was functioning and were still seeking a formula to ensure that the Council was capable of carrying out the responsibilities envisaged for it in the Charter in the field of economic and social development. Consequently, the Assembly's current efforts to agree on new measures for restructuring and revitalizing the Council, in particular the recommendations in the draft resolution currently before it, were of the utmost importance.

11. Because of its smaller size, the Council could be better placed than the Assembly, whose universal personality gave it a special role in policy formulation, to carry out coordination and management responsibilities more effectively, as well as to undertake policy dialogue at the point where monitoring, coordination and management functions intersected.

12. In respect of coordination and management, the Council could also play an important role in establishing inter-agency linkages. Similarly, in the management of the various commissions and committees which made up its subsidiary machinery, the Council should seek to identify such interlinkages, promote a synthesis and act as a corrective mechanism when subsidiary bodies dealing with related themes were proceeding in contrary directions. The Council must change and adapt its way of business. The effective discharge of that responsibility was vital, not just to revitalize the Council itself but to ensure that economic and social development played a central role in the work of the United Nations.

13. Mr. JOSEPH (Representative of the Director-General of the World Health Organization) introduced the report of the Director-General on the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) (A/48/159).

14. In regard to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, he noted that, as of mid-1993, the number of adults and children infected with HIV world wide had reached 14 million. Of that total, more than 2.5 million had gone on to develop AIDS. The number of adults alive with HIV infection was about 11 million. The most seriously affected region continued to be sub-Saharan Africa, with more than 8 million infected adults. However, the biggest increase in the last year had been in Latin America and South and South-East Asia, each with more than 1.5 million adult infections.

15. World wide, about 75 per cent of infections to date had been acquired through sexual intercourse and heterosexual transmission was on the rise. Five out of eleven newly infected adults were women. The vulnerability of youth was becoming clear, since about one half of HIV infections had occurred in young persons under 25 years of age.

16. By the year 2000, WHO estimated that there would be a cumulative total of 30 to 40 million HIV infections in men, women and children, of which more than 90 per cent would be in developing countries. The projected cumulative total of adult AIDS cases was close to 10 million. The increasing numbers of people with HIV infection and of AIDS patients was placing overwhelming stress on already fragile health systems. By the year 2000, developing countries would spend over US$ 1 billion per year on health care for AIDS.

17. The cost for individual families was even more devastating. By the time parents died, their children and elderly dependants were often deeply impoverished because of the costs in time and money of caring for someone with AIDS. As the pandemic advanced, HIV infection, by depressing the body's immune response, was leading to a host of other diseases, each with their own set of consequences. For example, there had been an alarming increase in cases of tuberculosis in parallel with the AIDS epidemic in many countries. As HIV infection was responsible for the increasing number of tuberculosis cases, one of the best means for slowing the growth of the tuberculosis pandemic was to prevent HIV infection.

18. Epidemiologically, therefore, the international community was faced with two key challenges. In those countries where HIV had arrived early in the pandemic, there was a need to provide care and support to the growing number of AIDS patients and to deal with the social and economic consequences of their illness, while at the same time accelerating prevention efforts. In countries where HIV was relatively new, there was the challenge of preventing the type of serious epidemic that had occurred elsewhere.

19. A recent study published by WHO had shown that investment of US$ 2.5 billion per year in sound prevention efforts could halve the number of new HIV infections in the developing world by the year 2000. For that to be achieved, there was a need for increased political commitment, for a greater multisectoral response and for more involvement of communities and community-based organizations in the related control efforts.

(Mr. Joseph)

20. Addressing the issue of coordination within the United Nations system, he said that in May 1993, the World Health Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, had adopted a resolution requesting the Director-General of WHO to study the feasibility of establishing a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, in close collaboration with the Executive Heads of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Bank.

21. According to the resolution, such a programme should be designed to provide the sponsoring agencies with technical, strategic and policy direction; to collaborate with other organizations of the United Nations system, with Governments and with non-governmental organizations on matters related to HIV and AIDS; and to strengthen the capacity of Governments to coordinate HIV/AIDS activities at country level. The study in question was to be submitted to the Executive Board of WHO in January 1994.

22. The Governing Councils of UNDP and UNFPA had endorsed the resolution, and the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1993/51, had emphasized its full support for the WHO resolution and called upon the executive heads of the potential sponsoring agencies to cooperate fully in the process.

23. The very request for the study was a clear recognition that the struggle against the pandemic could not be divided among organizations and sectors. It was as much a challenge to the health sector to expand into other areas as it was a call to other sectors to participate in disease control activities. The United Nations system must follow the same advice it was giving national Governments, in other words, it must develop a comprehensive, well-managed response that was as resilient and multifaceted as the disease it purported to control.

24. The process outlined in the resolution was well under way. Since May 1993, six meetings of representative of the sponsors had been held. The agencies had been delineating basic principles, as well as shaping options for the programme's structure and function and analysing the needs created by the pandemic. As requested in the World Health Assembly resolution, before the study was completed, advice would be sought from the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS and the Task Force on HIV/AIDS Coordination established by the Management Committee of the Global Programme on AIDS.

25. He was convinced that, if the same spirit of collaboration continued, a joint programme had great potential to rationalize and improve the individual and collective efforts of the organizations involved. A joint United Nations system programme on HIV and AIDS offered a unique opportunity to move substantially forward - at the global as well as the country level - within the context of the global AIDS strategy.

26. Mr. KINLOCH (Deputy Assistant Administrator, Regional Bureau for Africa, United Nations Development Programme), introducing the report (A/48/498) requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/204, of 20 December 1991, on special assistance to Namibia, pointed out that the Committee for Development Planning would be submitting full recommendations to the General Assembly at its

(Mr. Kinloch)

forty-ninth session, after reviewing Namibia's need for special assistance. Following the granting of "as if" least developed country status to Namibia, UNDP had been able to allocate for the fifth programming cycle in respect of Namibia's first country programme US$ 15 million, which was more than would have been allocated without the special status. UNDP had further recommended that other United Nations agencies and funds should do the same. Thus, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) had granted Namibia US$ 1.2 million, and a number of Governments had provided US$ 1.2 million in the form of third-party cost sharing.

27. Other specialized funds from which Namibia could benefit under the resolution were the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). Given the resource constraints of those two funds, their contributions were not likely to be substantial. Moreover, the mandate of UNSO restricted its action to the Sudano-Sahelian region. It had been expected that Namibia would, by the existence of resolution 46/204, be able to mobilize loans on concessionary terms. So far, however, Namibia had not committed itself to any structural adjustment programme, and could therefore not obtain IDA loans on concessionary terms. The World Bank did not recognize Namibia as having least developed country status. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was hoping to conclude an agreement with the Namibian Government for a US$ 12.5 million loan on soft terms. The African Development Fund had recently concluded an agreement for a soft loan of 36 million Namibian dollars to support the development of education.

28. The factors that had led to the resolution were long lasting, and the per capita income distribution in the country ranged from US$ 85 to US$ 16,600, with over two thirds of the population living in absolute poverty. It was therefore obvious that the international community should continue to provide assistance to Namibia in order to enable the nation to maintain a reasonable basis for its future development.

29. Mr. RAO (Executive Director, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements), introducing the report (A/48/183-E/1993/74 and Add.1) requested by the General Assembly in resolution 47/170 of 22 December 1992 on assistance to the Palestinian people, said that, in compliance with that resolution, he had collected the pertinent information from the various sources concerned and the replies received were summarized in the report.

30. Mr. WIDYONO (Chief, Regional Commissions New York Office) introduced the report contained in document A/48/188, which had been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/172 of 22 December 1992 and was based on a study by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

31. The building of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory had accelerated since the beginning of 1990. Since mid-1992, two main political issues were supposed to have a direct impact on the pace of Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories: one was the formation, in July 1992, of a new Government, which had announced its willingness to put an end to the construction of housing in the occupied Palestinian territories; the other was the American loan guarantees for Israel, which had been approved on

6 October 1992. Construction of settlements was not "frozen", since the Israeli Government remained committed to the construction of 11,000 additional housing units. Moreover, as mentioned in the report, settlement in greater Jerusalem and along the borders with the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan would not be affected by any future settlement policy, as the Prime Minister of Israel had declared. It was nearly impossible to determine the source of funding of settlements, since the Israeli Government and the Jewish Agency could free funds for use in the occupied territories by using money obtained under the United States loan guarantees for projects inside Israel's pre-1967 borders.

32. Water continued to be one of the most sensitive issues affecting the economic and social development of the people in the occupied Arab territories. During the period under consideration, the Israeli authorities had gained control over water resources in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan, and more than 67 per cent of the water supply in the area was exploited for the benefit of the non-Palestinian population. That water policy and the confiscation of land to establish or expand settlements had been accompanied by the imposition of curfews on various areas of the occupied Palestinian territories in order to prevent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli settlers. During the first four months of 1993, approximately 3,180 trees had been uprooted in the occupied Arab territories because the landowners had failed to obtain permits to plant the seedlings from the Israel Land Administration. All those measures had significantly affected the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, especially in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

33. It was to be hoped that, with the agreement on mutual recognition between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel of 13 September 1993, the dispute on Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories could be ended.

34. The CHAIRMAN announced the opening of the general debate on agenda item 12.

35. Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said he wished to refer to the restructuring of the economic and social sector, financing of operational activities, inter-agency coordination, humanitarian assistance and expert bodies.

36. The Group of 77 and China were most interested in achieving the objectives of the restructuring of the economic and social sector, as evidenced by their contribution to the consensus achieved on the substantive elements to improve the distribution of work between the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the governing bodies. Only one element, the size of governing bodies, remained to be negotiated in order to make the substance of the reform operative. The Group of 77 and China had recently introduced draft resolution A/47/L.58/Rev.1, which included a compromise formula on the issue. Although the proposal was acceptable to the large majority of Member States, the sponsors had agreed to a request for an extension of the deadline from a group of delegations which wished to hold further consulations, and they were still awaiting the reactions of that group. The urgenct need to implement the substance of the reform confirmed that the agreed deadline was the maximum allowable for taking action on the matter. It was essential that at the next session of the Economic

(Mr. Jaramillo, Colombia)

and Social Council and of the Second Committee the significant improvements set out in the draft resolution to which he had referred should be implemented. The sponsors trusted that the extension of the deadline would make it possible to find points of agreement in those areas in which there was still some disagreement, so that on the 30 November deadline, it would not be necessary to adopt a decision by majority.

37. It was important to note that the volume of financial support provided by the industrialized world to the operational activities of the United Nations had declined. That was a paradoxical situation in view of the repeated declarations of support made by donors regarding the development objectives of the Organization. The paradox was even greater given the renewed commitment of the developing world to improve the management of operational activities in all their aspects.

38. With regard to coordination among the organizations and agencies of the system, which was a crucial element in that management, he pointed out that recent decisions of the General Assembly, especially resolution 47/199, had substantially improved the legal framework to make coordination more effective and operative. The Secretariat's efforts should be oriented towards implementing that legal framework, and not towards introducing political elements alien to the subject of coordination which hampered the urgent action of the United Nations in the developing world. The political dimension was not only irrelevant to the issue but was a factor which seriously undermined relations between the United Nations and the developing world.

39. On the question of humanitarian assistance, he said that coordination in emergency situations should be entrusted to the resident representative of the agency whose mandate most closely approximated the needs of the crisis and whose specialization clearly gave it a comparative advantage. The Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, should make the decision and set the guidelines for coordination among the agencies without getting involved in the operational phase. The coordinator should play a fundamental role in rehabilitation and in the development process following an emergency. That point must be emphasized, given that the massive aid provided to countries stricken by a disaster usually ended when the critical moment of the emergency was over.

40. The Group of 77 and China wished to express their satisfaction at the important contribution which the Economic and Social Council had made at its recent session in its analysis of the functioning of expert bodies. They hoped that that analysis would help to improve the efficiency of those bodies.

41. Mr. PETERS (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, noted that, following the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 1993, the practice of holding a high-level segment and a coordination segment had been well established, and was beginning to yield practical results. With regard to the coordination segment, the discussions on the coordination of humanitarian assistance and on the campaign against malaria and diarrhoeal diseases had been satisfactory. Although the conclusions reached might have been more specific, they were realistic and could serve as guidelines for concerned parties within the United Nations system.

(Mr. Peters, Belgium)

42. The debates during the high-level segment, on the other hand, had remained excessively formal and had not yet met the expectation that a true political dialogue on the issues addressed would be instituted. The dialogue with the international financial institutions, in particular, which was very useful with a view to maintaining a proper division of labour between those institutions and the United Nations, had contained both valid and routine elements; that, regrettably, represented a step backwards compared with the previous year.

43. Thus, although those aspects of the reform of the Council which were already in effect had yielded encouraging results, some still had to be implemented. First, the choice of topic for the high-level and coordination segments was to be made during the Council's organizational session, and the Council's competence must be respected. The choice should be made on a consensus basis, maintaining a balance between the economic and social sectors, the priorities of various groups and the relevance of the issues, which could not be identified several years in advance. Second, it was important to ensure the implementation of the agreed conclusions, which must be followed by all the administrative decisions required to give them effect.

44. The work of the Economic Committee during the July session had been slow and often difficult, mainly because of the lack of both substantive and budgetary documentation, and the form in which various subsidiary bodies had submitted their reports to the Council. Those bodies should follow a more uniform procedure and indicate clearly the areas where they were requesting the Council to adopt policy decisions. The Council could not blindly support conclusions or recommendations the implications, including budgetary implications, of which were unclear, nor could it negotiate texts that assumed technical expertise it did not possess. That applied in particular to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, although the reports of the regional commissions presented similar difficulties. The Council should provide all such bodies with clearer guidelines in that respect.

45. The organizational problems which had been universally experienced during the substantive session of the Council clearly showed that the reform process, halted in mid-stream, should go forward and should be concluded within the time-limit established by the General Assembly.

46. To date, the Council had adopted a total of 192 resolutions and decisions during its 1993 sessions, compared to 168 adopted in 1992. The new methods of work, which he hoped would be applied to the work of the Council as a whole beginning the following year, would require the number of texts to be limited and the division of labour between the Council and the Second Committee to be more carefully respected. Unfortunately, it was necessary once again to return to the matter of the late distribution of documentation since, despite constant appeals by Member States, the situation had only deteriorated, to the point that during the 1993 substantive session of the Council some documents had been distributed after the debate had begun. While Member States must show greater discipline in requesting new reports from the Secretariat, the Secretariat had primary responsibility in that area. It should be pointed out, as had already been done the previous year during the debate on the same item in the Second Committee, that brief and high-quality reports were needed. The tendency

(Mr. Peters, Belgium)

towards encyclopaedic documents needlessly increased the workload of the translation and printing services and of delegations, too. The European Community and its member States hoped, therefore, that reforms in the Secretariat would result in a swift improvement in the situation.

47. Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) noted the difficulties caused by late distribution of documentation and reiterated his concern at the lack of results in the negotiations on the restructuring of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the delay in the submission of proposed amendments to draft resolution A/47/L.58/Rev.1. He trusted that the deadline would be met, given that amendments were to be limited to the function and size of the administrative organs.

48. At its latest substantive session, the Council had examined and evaluated for the first time the results of the work of the subsidiary bodies restructured pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992. The work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development had been given new impetus by the reforms which had been adopted. However, despite the priority which developing countries attached to socio-economic issues, serious difficulties persisted with regard to the financing of activities. Those countries had an interest in bringing to the attention of the industrialized world the importance of technology transfer. The debate on the programme of work for the biennium 1994-1995 should therefore focus on the fundamental role of science and technology for development.

49. Coordination of activities in the economic and social spheres should also be improved. In addition to the persistent duplication in the consideration of those items in the Economic Committee and the Social Committee of the Council and in the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly there was further duplication of work in the various bodies. The implementation of the guidelines for the framework of the Council and the Second Committee could ensure improved coordination without further expenditure.

50. Mr. KRUEGER (Austria) said that his delegation had been heartened by the way in which the high-level segment, the coordination segment and the operational activities segment had unfolded during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. While there was scope for further improvement, the reforms introduced pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991 had enhanced the Council's ability to discharge its mandate. The further reforms envisaged in draft resolution A/47/L.58/Rev.1 were also a step in the right direction.

51. The Council had taken more seriously its function of supervising its various subsidiary bodies and coordinating and integrating their recommendations. Its consideration of the reports of those bodies had reaffirmed the value of those recommendations.

52. Austria believed that the Council was plagued by a proliferation and fragmentation of reports. Efforts should be made to streamline the reports and reduce their number; some could be presented biennially and others could be discontinued. Furthermore, the Council's coordination and policy functions could be greatly enhanced through appropriate categorization of data. Austria

(Mr. Krueger, Austria)

hoped that the "policy reports" issued by the United Nations Secretariat would lead to the publication of a comprehensive report on the state of the environment and development which would provide the basis for policies and priorities related to United Nations system activities in the field of sustainable development and offer clear choices to the multitude of governmental and non-governmental agencies in the economic and social fields.

53. Mr. NEBENZIA (Russian Federation) commended the work of the Economic and Social Council at its 1993 substantive session. The new division of its work into high-level, coordination and operational activities segments permitted the consideration of issues that should be coordinated at the system-wide level and enhanced the Council's efficiency. At the current session of the General Assembly, a consensus could be achieved on the proposal that the Economic Committee and the Social Committee should be merged beginning with the 1994 session. That merger, in addition to enhancing the importance of the high-level and coordination segments, would allow more time for the consideration of operational activities. The high-level segment had been the most intellectual component of the session, in view of the participation of senior officials and the useful deliberations on the World Summit for Social Development. At that forum, a humanitarian agenda and a multisectoral approach should be worked out in order to resolve the problems in the area of development.

54. There was need for broad coordination of the policies of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, a factor which was very important in terms of comparative advantage, whereby some agencies provided economic assistance while others helped to resolve social and humanitarian problems. Such an approach would permit the Economic Committee and the Social Committee to be merged for plenary meetings.

55. The series of meetings on operational activities would be of fundamental importance for the social and economic activities of the United Nations, since it would help to improve the management and supervision of all operational activities in the system.

56. Note should be taken of the Council's resolutions on the scientific and technological aspects of the conversion of military capacity for civilian use and for sustainable development, international cooperation to combat the effects of the Chernobyl accident, and the strengthening of the regional commissions.

57. Reforms must be aimed at providing practical guidance for the overall work of the Council; a more important role must also be assigned to the organizational session, whose basic function was to prepare the programme of work for the substantive session, particularly the selection of items for the high-level and coordination segments.

58. An important issue for the Council's work was the timely preparation of documentation, since the lack of information reduced the possibility of giving in-depth consideration to agenda items and made it necessary to change the dates of meetings. He hoped that the Secretariat would take the necessary steps to correct that situation.

59. Mr. KHANI (Syrian Arab Republic), referring to the Arab population of the occupied territories, condemned the Israeli practices of exploiting resources and restricting agricultural activities, which were serious violations of Security Council resolutions 446 (1979) and 465 (1980), as well as of the Geneva and Hague Conventions.

60. In document A/48/188-E/1993/78, the Secretary-General had drawn attention to the arbitrary practices of confiscating land and gaining control of water resources in the Syrian Arab Golan, which had reduced the area under cultivation, and had curtailed local development potential and lowered the local income level from agriculture.

61. The Government of Israel was currently constructing 1,200 housing units in the Golan Heights. During the first five months of the current year, 3,381 dunums had been confiscated. The objective of the policy on water resources was to exhaust the water systems and reduce agricultural and livestock production, with the attendant grave consequences for the Arab population. In addition, the Israeli authorities had uprooted fruit trees and had dumped toxic wastes which had contaminated soils and polluted the environment.

62. The Golan would continue to be a victim of suppression and oppression until the occupation was brought to an end. The international community must immediately take the necessary measures to ensure that Israel complied with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and observed the provisions of the Geneva and Hague Conventions as well as international agreements on economic, social and cultural rights.

63. Mr. BIAOU (Benin) said that the conclusions of the Council's high-level segment, which had considered the question of the World Summit on Social Development, including the role of the United Nations system in promoting social development, would serve as a reference and inspiration to guide the work of the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development to be held in 1994.

64. Benin attached vital importance to the Council's high-level segments, and sincerely hoped that the topics to be considered in 1994 and 1995 would arouse in all delegations the same interest which they currently evoked, and that the concrete recommendations and proposals formulated during those segments would be translated into achievements that were of benefit to the United Nations system and its Member States.

65. The coordination segment had focused on two key issues: coordination of humanitarian relief and emergency assistance and the continuation of such action as part of rehabilitation and development efforts, on the one hand, and coordination of the activities of the United Nations system in the area of preventive action and intensification of efforts to combat malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, particularly cholera, on the other.

66. The conclusions of the discussions on emergency assistance underscored the fact that the development agencies concerned should organize reform programmes aimed, in particular, at changing their basic infrastructure. It was also necessary to elaborate regional and international strategies aimed at coordinating appropriate measures to prevent the spread of such diseases.

(Mr. Biaou, Benin)

67. The 1994 substantive session should therefore specify the Council's objectives, work plans and programmes; allocate the necessary resources to achieve those goals; and define the supportive functions of the relevant United Nations agencies to facilitate improved coordination of the activities of the international community.

68. In order to achieve the most rational internal organization of work, resolutions which had been adopted without a vote in the Economic and Social Committees should not be discussed at length later in informal consultations, which would constitute a major step forward and facilitate the division of tasks between the Second Committee of the General Assembly and the Council.

69. The division of labour between the two organs would be determined following the adoption of draft resolution A/47/L.58/Rev.1, concerning further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. The Council would no longer be the consulting chamber in which the temperature of the debates was taken, and the Second Committee would cease to function as a sick bay in which intramuscular and intravenous injections were administered. Instead, each organ would carry out the functions and mandates stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

70. Mr. GOUDIMA (Ukraine) said that, despite the end of the cold war, the world remained polarized and the gap between rich and poor countries continued to widen. Poverty and underdevelopment created instability, conflicts and wars which were a threat to international peace and security. The restructuring and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council were therefore of increasing importance in order to intensify the Council's efforts to improve international economic relations. The Council should therefore change the focus of its mission and undertake programmes and activities for the benefit of all countries and not merely to satisfy the public relations needs of a handful of countries.

71. The Ad Hoc Working Group, whose work was geared towards that objective, had formulated useful proposals to promote the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. Unfortunately, their negotiations had not been a complete success. The Group should resume its work and focus its activities on the formulation of effective and global proposals that would benefit all countries.

72. Serious consideration should be given to the possibility of the Economic and Social Council reporting in a comprehensive manner to the Security Council on all questions affecting international peace and security as well as to the establishment of flexible inter-sessional machinery to deal appropriately with the new developments that continually arose.

73. The 1993 substantive session had been notable for its initiation of far-reaching changes. Most Member States had sought to revitalize and intensity the work of the Economic and Social Council, as had been most evident during the high-level segment with the establishment of guidelines intended to tackle fundamental problems in the sphere of economic and social development. The high-level segment should be made one of the basic elements of the Council, together with a free, unofficial exchange of views among Member States on sustainable development.

(Mr. Goudima, Ukraine)

74. Such exchanges should also be strengthened through the coordination, not only of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system connected with humanitarian assistance, but also of activities in connection with the prevention of dangerous illnesses, taking account of the limited resources available in those areas, where sound organization was essential to avoid duplication and to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations system in general.

75. Account must also be taken of the meetings on operational activities. He noted the importance of General Assembly resolution 47/199, of 22 December 1992, on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development within the United Nations system and stressed the need to avoid any conflicts between operational activities and activities relating to the maintenance and strengthening of peace.

76. Recognition must be given at the session to the fact that the unhindered implementation of operational activities must also take due account of the interests of all countries, including the transition economies.

77. He noted with satisfaction that at the substantive session important decisions and resolutions of a practical nature had been adopted on the basis of reports such as those submitted by the Commission on Transnational Corporations, the Committee on Natural Resources, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Statistical Commission.

78. It was also important that international cooperation and coordination had been strengthened in terms of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and that international approval had been given for preventive action against and control of the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

79. His delegation regretted that it had not been able to study the contents of the report of the Council until the last moment and that it had been impossible to prepare adequately for its detailed consideration. Nevertheless it was quite evident that it indicated very positive attainments and reflected a desire to better distribute the work of the agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and the various countries. He trusted that the delay had been due to circumstances and would not become a normal practice.

80. Ms. YANG Yanyi (China) said that the Economic and Social Council was perhaps the United Nations organ that had received the least attention during the cold war years. Nevertheless, with economic and social development established as necessary for conditions of lasting global peace and security, it must now receive more attention.

81. The role of the Economic and Social Council within the United Nations would indicate the ability of the Organization to meet the demands of the post-cold-war period. It was true that the United Nations must first find a way to contain tension, conflict and bloodshed throughout the world, but there was no doubt that for the overwhelming majority of countries economic development was a more important and urgent task. Therefore it was essential for the United

(Ms. Yang Yanyi, China)

Nations to discharge its functions in the field of international cooperation for development.

82. At the 1993 substantive session a high-level policy dialogue had been held on the growing problems of social development.

83. The guidance provided by the Council for its subsidiary organs and coordination between them had improved and there was increased awareness of the importance of a division of labour and efficiency.

84. It was of great importance that the Commission on Sustainable Development had been established and that the operational machinery was now in place for the monitoring and promotion of the implementation of Agenda 21.

85. Her delegation trusted that draft resolution A/47/L.58/Rev.1, which reaffirmed the principles and objectives of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social and related spheres, and drew attention to the requirements of the developing countries, could be adopted by consensus.

86. The high-level segment of the substantive session should retain its role as an important forum for policy dialogue on major issues of economic and social development. She hoped that the macroeconomic themes of most concern to the international community, and in particular the developing countries, would be discussed.

87. The strengthening of development coordination, particularly in the field of science and technology, should be a matter of priority for the Council, since science and technology played an ever more important role in global economic competition. With the emergence of new technologies, the world was witnessing a wage of structural adjustments and industrial transformations which had resulted in new patterns of division of labour and provided developing countries with opportunities to participate in modern industrial production with new technologies. But today's new technologies, particularly the key technologies, were controlled by the developed countries, and most developing countries lacked the ability to introduce and utilize them. In order to breach the huge gap between the South and North and help developing countries acquire, master and utilize science and technology, the Council and its subsidiary organs should strengthen their coordination in that field.

88. Further, given that the lack of financial resources had hampered the smooth functioning of multilateral technical cooperation in the United Nations and the implementation of the instruments established pursuant to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Council should devise practical measures to solve those problems so that United Nations activities in the economic and social fields would keep up with the times.

89. Mr. LUEDIG (Estonia) proposed the postponement of the deadline for the submission of drafts under sub-item 91 (j): Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy, from 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 19 October, to 6 p.m.

(Mr. Luedig, Estonia)

on Friday, 22 October, to allow the continued holding of formal and informal consultations involving the potential sponsors.

90. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection to the proposal from Estonia, he would take it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

91. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.